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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE N W
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER

CONTEE, JOY KIMBERLY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2681

DATE MAILED: 11/05/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/415,205

Applicant(s)

Igarashi

Examiner

Joy Contee

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Aug 21, 2002
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4, and 6-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirements.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on Aug 27, 2002 is/are a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:

- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 2 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

However, the Sotek (WO 97/38370 translation in U.S. Patent 6,189,059) reference is used again here as a secondary reference to indicate the combinable teaching of a master station having a plurality of identification codes stored within of registered slave units such that master station controls the plurality of slave units. This wired example is combined with Hachimura (U.S. 6,327,477), previously cited, to indicate an obvious modification to Hachimura which specifically teaches a master unit which controls a plurality of slave units, wherein detection of on-hook and off-hook of the slave units is provided. Also notification and confirmation of line request signals is provided in a wireline and wireless environment which provides motivation for the combination. (See rejection below.)

Claim Objections

2. Claim 10 is objected to because of the following informalities: The preamble describes a method but concludes with "the system including " (see line 5) wherein methodical limitations follow. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly the claims have not been treated on the merits.

5. Claim 8 recites the limitation "the second telephone set" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

6. Claim 10 (and thus its dependent 11) recites the limitation "the two unit IDs" in line 8. Although the preamble makes reference to a plurality of unit IDs registered in each slave and each master, it is unclear as to which two unit IDs are being claimed in the aforementioned limitation at line 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1,2,6,7,9,10,11, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hachimura, in view of Sotek et al., WO 97/38370, previously used.

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Regarding claims 1,2,6,10 and 12, Hachimura discloses a master and a plurality of slave units in which the master communicates with the plurality of slave units and contains a memory which stores terminating/transmitting processor, a call-end processor, and a call processor and an operational controller for supervising wireless connection and disconnection between the master and slave. Hachimura teaches both management of wireline and wireless link disconnect (col. 3, lines 55-67 to col. 4, line 4). Hachimura further discloses detecting a on hook and off hook a telephone set connected to the slave unit, wherein a line connection request signal is sent and confirmed to the master unit (col. 4, lines 14-57).

Hachimura does not explicitly disclose preliminary registered unit IDs in the slave and master units, wherein IDs are matched for confirmation of assignment of vacant communication channels to the slave unit.

In a similar field of endeavor, although in the wired environment, Sotek discloses registering a plurality of identification codes in the slave and master units such that the master station controls a plurality of slave units.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the call processing in the master unit of Hachimura would have included preliminary registration of the slave units which comprises storing a plurality of unit identifications for the purpose of allowing detection,notification and confirmation of communicable slave units for the processing of incoming calls as taught in Hachimura (col. 4, lines 14-57).

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Regarding claim 7, Hachimura and Sotek disclose the limitations of claim 6. Hachimura is further evidence of the radio telephone system wherein when a second telephone set is hooked off to make a telephone call while the first telephone is in communication a line connection request are transmitted on the control channel and the line connection for the first telephone set is executed (col. 4, lines 14-57).

Regarding claim 9, Hachimura and Sotek disclose the limitations of claim 6. Hachimura is further evidence of the radio telephone system wherein when the first telephone set is hooked on, a communication off request is transmitted from the first telephone set to the master telephone set; and in response to receipt of the communication off request the master telephone set transmits a communication off signal to the first telephone set thus ending the communication and restores the telephone set to the standby state (see Fig. 3, steps 308-315).

Regarding claim 11, the combination of Hachimura and Sotek disclose the limitations of claim 10. Hachimura further discloses wherein the master telephone set sends out via the communication channel an instruction to ring the bell to the slave telephone set (col. 4, lines 66-67).

9. Claim 4/1 and 4/2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hachimura, in view of Wakayama et al. ("Wakayama"), U.S. Patent No. 6,212,221.

Regarding claim 4, Hachimura discloses the radio telephone system according to claim 1 or 2. Hachimura does not explicitly disclose the radio telephone, wherein each slave telephone set is capable of utilizing both analog radio communication and also digital communication.

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In a similar field of endeavor, Wakayama discloses the radio telephone system, wherein each slave telephone set is capable of utilizing both analog radio communication and also digital communication (col. 8, lines 49-57).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified Hachimura to include both analog and digital communication for the purpose of communicating voice and/or data to master unit.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 3 and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

11. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Prior art of record fails to disclose wherein a plurality of unit IDs registered in each slave telephone set are registered in a *plurality of master telephone sets*.

Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joy K. Contee whose telephone number is (703) 308-0149, M-F 5:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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If the examiner can not be reached, the examiner's supervisor Dwayne Bost can be reached on (703)305-4778.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703)306-0377

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314, (for formal communications intended for entry or informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Crystal Park II

Sixth Floor (Receptionist)


2121 Crystal Drive

Arlington. VA



Joy K. Contee

November 2, 2002



NAY MAUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER